



REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1-12 and 21-24 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. These claims are cancelled.

Claims 13-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102 over U.S. patent no. 6,217,024 to Smedt et al.

Claim 13 is amended to recite an end effector "for transporting articles between different stations, the end effector holding an article as the article is being transported". Claim 13 is supported by Applicants' specification, page 2, lines 16-17.

Smedt et al. disclose an edge handling chuck 100 for handling a wafer during an inspection of the wafer surface (Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 16-17; col. 4, lines 35-38). Smedt et al. do not teach or suggest that the chuck 100 is capable of transporting a wafer between different stations are recited in Claim 13.

Claims 14-16 and new Claims 25-31 depend from Claim 13.

The discussion of Claim 13 applies to Claim 17.

Claims 18-20 and new Claims 32-36 depend from Claim 17.

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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